

# Indonesia and Rebels In Aceh Sign Accord

## Tsunami Spurs Deal Ending 30-Year War

By ALAN SIPRESS  
Washington Post Foreign Service

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Aug. 15 — Indonesia signed a peace agreement Monday with rebels in Aceh province who have fought for nearly 30 years for a separate state, lending a crucial boost to efforts at rebuilding the tsunami-battered region.

Under the accord, signed at a ceremony in Helsinki, the Finnish capital, the Free Aceh Movement set aside its long-standing demand for independence and agreed to immediately begin turning over its weapons to international observers, drawn mainly from the European Union. Disarmament is due to be completed by the end of the year.

In return, the Indonesian government agreed to revise electoral laws so that Acehnese can form local political parties and nominate candidates for offices at all levels of government. Indonesia will also significantly scale back its security force in Aceh, estimated at 35,000 soldiers and police officers. The government also agreed to notify observers before staging any military maneuver involving more than a platoon.

"There is always a time for rain to stop, and there is always a time for war or conflict to end," said Indonesia's justice minister, Hamid Awaluddin, who led the government's delegation in Helsinki.

The agreement capped five rounds of talks mediated by Finland's former president, Martti Ahtisaari.

Previous deals to end one of the world's longest-running civil wars, including an agreement signed nearly three years ago, collapsed in part because of resistance from members of the Indonesian military, who were determined to end the conflict by force. Up to 15,000 people are estimated to have died as a result of the fighting in Aceh, many of them civilians.

The new accord, however, has unprecedented support from the Indonesian government. Efforts to negotiate a settlement were largely initiated by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, a retired general elected last year, and, in particular, the influential vice president, Jusuf Kalla, who secretly initiated contacts with the Aceh rebels shortly af-

ter the leaders took office.

Moreover, the separatist movement, known by its Indonesian initials GAM, demonstrated willingness to compromise after government forces battered the rebel ranks during a two-year offensive.

But both sides acknowledged that the turning point was the massive Dec. 26 tsunami, which killed at least 150,000 people in Aceh, on the northwestern tip of Sumatra island. With much of the province in ruins and foreign governments offering hundreds of millions of dollars in aid, Indonesian and rebel leaders decided to set aside the conflict for the sake of reconstruction.

"It is a leap of faith GAM has taken to allow Aceh to rebuild after the devastating tsunami, which killed so many of our brothers and sisters," said Malik Mahmud, the chief rebel negotiator. "And it is a leap of faith that GAM has taken to give the people of Aceh their opportunity to build a better and brighter future for themselves, their children and generations to come."

Included in the pact is a series of enticements for the rebels, such as a pledge to provide former fighters with farmland carved from the holdings of a government plantation company, and an offer of amnesty to those now imprisoned. Rebels convicted of criminal offenses will not be released.

Negotiators also agreed that Aceh will be entitled to receive 70 percent of revenues from the province's oil and gas reserves. The province will write many of its own laws and have its own flag, crest and anthem.

But GAM negotiators said that the most important political concessions were those allowing the Acehnese to form political parties to represent and promote local interests.

"The only way to ensure peace in Aceh is through the implementation of a genuine democracy," Mahmud said.

Speaking to the delegations by videoconference from Jakarta, Yudhoyono gave special thanks to GAM's negotiating team.

"We certainly hope that this is the era, a great era for us to really bring peace in Aceh, to be reunited, to work together in a very democratic atmosphere for a better future," the president said.



Negotiations between Indonesian Justice Minister Hamid Awaluddin, left, and the Free Aceh Movement's chairman, Malik Mahmud, right, were guided in Helsinki by Finland's former president, Martti Ahtisaari.

# Cabin Pressure Failure Requires Fast Action

## Crash Illustrates How Seconds Matter

By SARA KEHAULANI GOO  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The loss of cabin pressure — an apparent factor in the crash of a Helios Airways flight that killed 121 near Athens on Sunday — is a rare event in commercial planes and requires a quick response, aviation experts said yesterday.

Airline crews are trained to don masks immediately when they hear the alarm that alerts the crew to a sudden loss of cabin pressure. Passengers and crew have more time to don their masks if the plane is flying at lower altitudes when decompression occurs.

Investigators in Athens said there were several signs a loss of cabin pressure could have caused the accident. Greek authorities said they do not believe the tragedy was a terrorist act, but they likely won't know the actual cause of the crash for months or longer.

Fighter pilots reported seeing the co-pilot slumped over his seat, and oxygen masks deployed in the cabin, according to news reports. The wreckage showed that oxygen masks had been deployed. The flight crew did not respond to repeated calls from air traffic control and fighter pilots who watched it descend from 34,000 feet until it hit the ground, a possible sign they were unconscious.

Developments yesterday hampered the inquiry, as the plane's cockpit voice recorder was reported

to be in poor condition from the impact.

A coroner reported that a preliminary examination of six bodies indicated that the passengers were breathing and their blood was circulating before impact, according to a Reuters report. If cabin decompression was a factor, passengers and crew aboard the Boeing 737 did not have much time — most likely, seconds — to don oxygen masks, aviation experts said.

For example, passengers have 20 to 30 minutes to get the masks on if the plane is flying at 18,000 feet, while those on a plane flying at 35,000 feet would have 30 seconds to a minute because oxygen is more scarce at higher altitudes, according to Federal Aviation Administration research. After that, passengers could lose consciousness or have very little cognitive ability, according to FAA expert Rogers V. Shaw II.

A loss of oxygen, known as hypoxia, slows a person's physical responses and ability to think. Vision becomes impaired. Some people feel euphoric while others feel fatigue and dizziness. Some become nauseated and others hyperventilate.

Shaw said passengers can recover quickly if oxygen is restored soon enough. "If you get a couple breaths of oxygen, the recovery rate is instant," he said.

A loss of cabin pressure was determined to be the cause of a Learjet crash in 1999 carrying golfer Payne Stewart. In that case, the plane's



Masako Ishikawa, 86, releases a dove in a peace prayer at the Yasukuni Shrine, which honors 2.46 million military dead, some of whom were war criminals.

# In Japan, an Ambivalent Anniversary

## Events Commemorating WWII Surrender Reveal Mixed Emotions 60 Years On

By ANTHONY FAIOLA  
Washington Post Foreign Service

TOKYO, Aug. 15 — Striking a conciliatory note on the 60th anniversary of Japan's defeat in World War II, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi reiterated an apology Monday for "the huge damage and suffering" caused by his nation's past military aggression and pledged it would never happen again.

But a number of events on Sunday and Monday here and abroad illustrated the divisiveness that lingers over Japan's role in the war. In contrast with the cordial relationships Germany now maintains in Europe, several countries in Asia that were occupied by Japan during the war contend that the Japanese government has not atoned fully for its actions.

Groups of anti-Japanese protesters turned out in Hong Kong, Seoul, Manila and Taipei, Taiwan, to mark Aug. 15, 1945, when Emperor Hirohito spoke on the radio for the first time to ask his country to "endure the unendurable" by accepting defeat.

Chinese authorities in Beijing and Shanghai increased security noticeably at Japanese diplomatic missions, apparently attempting to avoid a repeat of violent anti-Japanese protests in April.

Critics complain about a growing movement in Japan to publish history textbooks that minimize the country's aggression during World War II, when millions of Asians living under Japanese occupation were killed. About 3 million Japanese were also killed in the years between Japan's invasion of



Veterans of Japan's Imperial Navy take part in a commemoration in which they sang hymns recalling Japan's militarism during World War II.

China in 1937 and the surrender in 1945. Members of the governing Liberal Democratic Party, meanwhile, support amending the postwar pacifist constitution written by the United States, which renounces Japan's right to wage war.

Koizumi has been criticized in Asia for his annual visits to the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, which honors 2.46 million military dead, including Gen. Hideki Tojo, the wartime prime minister who led Japan into battle with the United States. Tojo is among a number of men classified as war criminals who are honored at Yasukuni.

Some conservative leaders had encouraged Koizumi to take a stand against foreign meddling by vis-



Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi

iting the shrine on Monday. But the prime minister, concentrating on parliamentary elections set for Sept. 11, avoided the potential controversy. He attended a solemn ceremony at the Martial Arts Hall in Tokyo, accompanying Emperor Akihito, Hirohito's son, to mourn the war dead. Notably, leaders in South Korea and China also delivered subdued speeches emphasizing the need for cooperation and peace.

Koizumi did not use the word "apology" during his speech at the hall. But the word was included in a written statement issued earlier in the day. "Japan caused huge damage and suffering to many countries, especially the people of Asia, with its colonization and aggres-

sion," the statement said. "Humbly accepting this fact of history, we again express our deep remorse and heartfelt apology and offer our condolences to the victims of the war at home and abroad."

Officials said that a record 205,000 people visited the Yasukuni Shrine on Monday. The shrine also is the site of a war museum that celebrates Japan's militaristic past, and which houses a Zero fighter plane and Hirohito's sacred sword.

Under a blazing summer sun, members of Japanese nationalist groups — some clad in World War II uniforms and waving the flag used during the war — sang hymns that recalled Japan's military past. At least 47 members of Parliament and two of Koizumi's cabinet members attended.

A Japanese student protester was severely beaten by a group of furious men before being pulled to safety by bystanders. He was transported to a local hospital.

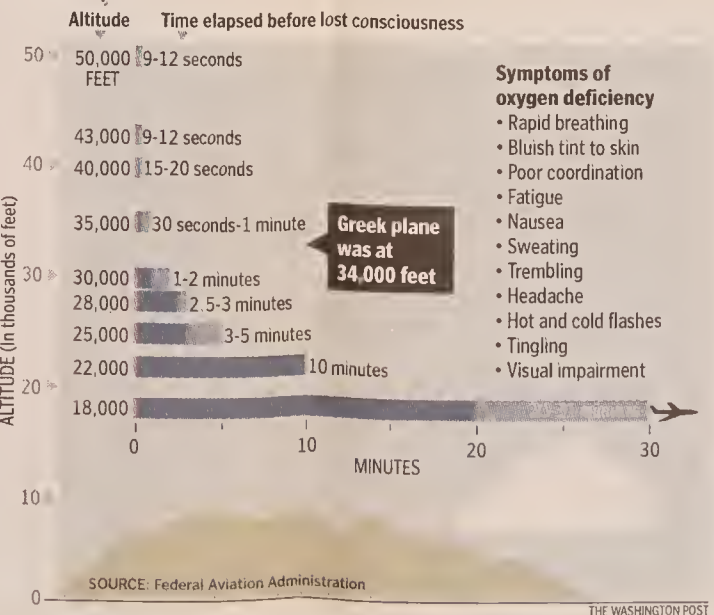
His face swollen and bloodied, the young man, who declined to give his name, said the attack began when he voiced opposition to Koizumi's visits to Yasukuni. "I was then beaten up by a bunch of right-wingers who looked like gangsters," he said, panting as he spoke.

In a public opinion poll published on Monday by the Mainichi newspaper, 43 percent of Japanese respondents said Japan's role in the war was wrong. Twenty-nine percent called it an "inevitable war" while another 26 percent were undecided.

Special correspondent Sachiko Sakamaki contributed to this report.

## Oxygen Loss

The time it takes to lose consciousness at various altitudes when oxygen is interrupted:



crew did not respond to air traffic controllers shortly after being cleared to climb to 39,000 feet. The plane flew for nearly four hours before it crashed near Aberdeen, S.D., killing all aboard. The National Transportation Safety Board could not determine what caused the loss of cabin pressure.

The FAA requires one member of a flight crew to wear an oxygen mask when flying at 25,000 feet or above if the other crew member leaves the cockpit for any reason. It was unclear yesterday whether Greek officials have the same requirement.

Many passengers do not realize that the instructions they receive about how to put on the mask and tug on the line to get the flow of oxy-

gen going should be carried out in a matter of seconds, experts said.

"That's why we say put on your own mask first and then assist a child," said Candace K. Kolander, coordinator of air safety, health and security for the Association of Flight Attendants. "If you don your child's first, then you could pass out and then you're good to no one. If for some reason the oxygen masks drop, it really is serious."

Kolander said that if a plane loses cabin pressure, passengers also should expect a drop in temperature and a quick descent as the flight crew tries to get the plane to a lower altitude, where there is more oxygen. The plane's emergency system should provide passengers with about 10 minutes of oxygen.

# Kremlin Not Amused By Life of This Party

## Political Antics Put Members on Trial

By PETER FINN  
Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW — The 39 defendants sat in cages lined up against the wall of a Moscow courtroom one day this month. The prisoners, most of them students in their teens and early twenties, were members of the National Bolshevik Party, a radical opposition group with a penchant for tossing eggs at officials, gate-crashing government buildings and generally thumbing their noses at authority.

They are accused of creating a "mass disturbance" in December after they burst into a reception room at the public offices of President Vladimir Putin outside the Kremlin and waved a banner out the window that read, "Putin Quit Your Job!"

But the prosecution of the political activists is part of a wider government crackdown on the National Bolsheviks, a party with ultranationalist roots that claims to have fashioned itself into a force for democratic change and economic justice, including redistribution of wealth.

The National Bolsheviks, whose name harkens back to the revolutionaries led by Vladimir I. Lenin who founded the Soviet Union, were banned in June by a Moscow court. Party lawyers said that was the first time a political party had been outlawed in

Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. The court held that the National Bolsheviks were intent on "a forceful change of the foundations of the constitutional regime."

The Russian Supreme Court was scheduled to rule on the party's appeal of that decision on Tuesday. "We are the most courageous party, we are the most uncontrolled," said the group's leader, Eduard Limonov, 62, an iconoclastic Russian writer who twirls his gray, Dali-esque moustache as he speaks. "We want to create a climate of political freedom and so we are very irritating to the Kremlin. We make the government crazy."

Occasionally, they even infuriate the lawyers trying to keep them out of prison.

After their attorneys presented a motion calling for the release of the 39 defendants from their pretrial detention, the judge turned to the young prisoners and asked if any of them had anything to say.

Up stood Julian Ryabtsev, a bespectacled skinhead wearing a T-shirt with the inflammatory insignia of his party, a parody of the Nazi banner with the Soviet Union's hammer and sickle substituted for the swastika on a white circle surrounded by red.

"All of Russia is a jail," said

See MOSCOW, A10, Col. 1



A hand is shown pulling a yellow paper bag. The bag features a black stylized leaf logo. A plaid tie is draped over the bag. The background is a light-colored, textured surface.

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